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May/June 2010

Members of the East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative in Urbana visited the Statehouse to promote the benefits of energy conservation and efficiency improvements, including rebate incentives and reduced energy bills. Pictured from left to right: Greg Pavelka, Steve Marlow, Senator Brian Schoenjahn, Teresa Floyd, and Travis Schellhorn.

REC Day on the Hill a Success

"A successful day of meeting with our representatives," is how ECI REC's Manager of Finance and Consumer Services Teresa Floyd summed up the 2010 REC Day on the Hill.

Some ECI REC representatives toured the Capitol with Representative Dawn Pettengill. "We thanked Rep. Pettengill, as well as Rep. Gene Ficken and State Senators Brian Schoenjahn and Tim Kapucian, for their support of House File 2399," said Teresa. "We encouraged these lawmakers to urge the Governor to sign the bill." Lineman Travis Schellhorn was asked by the Iowa Association of Electric Coopera-

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ECI REC
Energy Wise, Community Connected
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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REC Day on the Hill

tives be present at the Raccoon Valley Cooperative booth, which displayed photos from the recent ice storm. Travis was one of two ECI linemen who traveled to assist Raccoon Valley in repairing lines after a devastating winter ice storm, and several lawmakers thanked Travis for his service.

Directors Jim Alberts, Lloyd Bathen, Burt Byers, Jeff Elliott, Judy Finger, Bill Frazier, Don Shonka, and Steve Rau attended REC Day on the Hill. ECI REC employees attending the event were Steve Marlow, manager of operations and engineering; Travis Schellhorn, lineman; Greg Pavelka, marketing and economic development director; and Teresa Floyd, manager of finance and consumer services.

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What is House File 2399?

House File 2399, amended by HF 2314, recently passed by the Iowa Legislature and currently awaiting the signature of Gov. Chet Culver, gave Mid-American Energy the approval needed to evaluate the feasibility of building a second nuclear power plant in Iowa. Nuclear power emits no carbon dioxide, and that is one reason Iowa is interested in exploring a new facility. But these facilities are also expensive to build. To fund this research, Mid-Amercian Energy Company is seeking approval through the bill to impose a $15 million rate increase on its consumers.

There are no easy, inexpensive answers to Iowa's energy challenges. "If Americans want to limit greenhouse gas emissions, then coal, and even natural gas, cannot be used to fuel baseload plants. Unless battery technology makes unforeseen advances, nuclear fuel is the only alternative," said ECI REC CEO Harry Ruth.

"The United States, including Iowa, needs additional baseload generation if we are to produce the power needed to keep the lights on and the economy growing," he added. "Mid-American ratepayers alone will pay for the site evaluation study, but the issue is not whether rates will go up—that is inevitable. The larger concern is how to keep the lights on in our country."

District Office Visits Strengthen Relationships With Lawmakers

ECI's Director Judy Finger and Teresa Floyd, manager of finance and consumer services, are pictured at Senator Grassley's regional office in Cedar Rapids with office director Mary Day.

ECI REC personnel and directors recently paid visits to the offices of U.S. Senators Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin and Representative Bruce Braley.

Director Judy Finger and ECI REC Manager of Finance and Consumer Services Teresa Floyd visited the Senators' offices. "Our meeting with Senator Grassley's office director Mary Day was productive," said Teresa. "ECI REC believes it is the responsibility of Congress to determine a balanced solution to climate change legislation, not the EPA, so we thanked Ms. Day for the Senator's co-sponsorship of legislation that prevents the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions for electric generating facilities."

ECI REC is concerned such legislation could raise members' electric rates, and this message was also taken by Steve Marlow, manager of operations /engineering, and Directors Lloyd Bathen, Donald Shonka, Ryan Kress, Steve Rau, and Allen Albers to Representative Bruce Braley. "Affordable rates and reliable electricity for our members is our primary concern," Steve Marlow told Staff Assistant Mitch Adams.

Another area of concern—24/7 baseload generation capacity—was also discussed. "Iowa needs new baseload generation to support economic growth and unprecedented increased demand," said Steve. "Representative Braley urged state legislators to get behind a bill that allows Iowa utilities to research and evaluate all available opportunities to provide safe, reliable, and affordable baseload generation in an environmentally friendly manner. We thanked him for his support."

Efficiency Options Available to Ag Members

Rebates for Efficient Upgrades

Many East-Central Iowa REC agricultural member-consumers are eligible for rebates or credits when certain energy-efficient upgrades are made. In 2010, ECI is offering broader lighting incentives, and incentives for energy-efficient ventilation fans, heat lamps, livestock waterers, dairy equipment, and more.

More details on some of these incentives are listed below. For equipment qualifications and detailed requirements for these rebates log onto www.ecirec.coop, or contact us toll-free at 877-850-4343.

- Dairy Pre-Coolers: $3/cow
- Scroll Compressor: $250/unit
- Dairy Heat Reclaimers: $4/cow
- Variable Speed Vacuum Pumps: $40/hp
- Ventilation Fans (BESS lab rated): $35-150/unit
- Circulating Fans (BESS lab rated): $20-$50/unit
- Crate Heating Pads: $25-$50/pad
- Heat Pads & Lamp Controllers: $50/unit
- Motors & Drives: $25-$550/unit

Farm Energy Check Ups Available

Consumers Energy has partnered with the Iowa Farm Bureau and Iowa State University Extension to help farmers potentially lower their energy costs by performing energy audits on their farms. Opportunities to improve energy conservation and efficiency on the farm can result in decreased operating costs and help ensure the longterm viability of the farm business.

The energy audit will highlight ways to lower energy use and improve your bottom line.

To learn more, log onto www.consumersenergy.coop and click on Programs & Services, then Farm Energy Check-Up. You can also call Consumers Energy toll-free at 800-696-6552 to schedule a farm audit. Consumers Energy's office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Local Building Professionals Attend Green Building Conference

Six ECI-sponsored contractors recently attended the Momentum Is Building conference in West Des Moines. Momentum Is Building (MIB) was sponsored by Iowa's electric cooperatives. The two-day conference focused on energy-efficient building practices and materials, green building, and best practices in the industry, and is partially funded by a grant from the Iowa Energy Center.

ECI REC Member Services Director Frank Weber and Member Services Technicians John Tegler and Adam Albertsen also attended the MIB conference. "Energy efficiency is a critical factor in the success of builders in today's market," said Weber. "Building trades professionals know that the consumers they serve want the most energy-efficient home possible. We support the MIB conference as a way to help our local trade professionals and the consumers in our area."

There were 21 exhibitors at the conference, featuring a wide range of building materials, services, and techniques. Participants had the opportunity to attend workshops and listen to experts speak on topics like installing heat pumps and planning a remodeling project for energy efficiency.

CIPCO Recognizes Efficiency Efforts

On March 30, ECI's power supplier, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), held its 63rd annual meeting of the members at the downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel. Representatives from all 13 Iowa member-cooperatives were present.

The evening included the presentations of CIPCO's Recognition of Exceptional Residential Energy Efficiency Incentives award (see picture below). ECI REC was among those recognized for its exceptional support in 2009 of CIPCO's residential energy-efficiency initiatives. In 2009 ECI REC helped over 565 member-consumers participate in various energy-efficiency programs offered by the cooperative through CIPCO.

"These members qualified for and received rebates for their energy-efficient choices," said Frank Weber, ECI member services director. "ECI REC values helping members to keep some green in their pockets and our environment!"

Russ Steven, CIPCO Energy Solutions Manager; Harry Ruth, Steve Rau, and Frank Weber of ECI REC; and Pat Murphy, CIPCO Director of Business Development

INTRODUCING ECI REC'S TWO NEW REBATE PROGRAMS:

Get Cash for Old Appliances

ECI REC is partnering with Environmental Services of Iowa (ESI) to offer members a new way to go green and earn green, too! The Pull the Plug program will pay as much as $105, depending on the appliance, to members who sign up for this easy way of recycling of inefficient, working appliances.

It's easy to Pull the Plug!

1. Contact East-Central Iowa REC via phone (toll-free 877-850-4343) or email (CSR@ecirec.coop) to request collection of operable appliances. During our conversation, we will complete the appropriate on-line form by asking you for necessary information.
2. ECI REC will electronically submit the completed form to ESI. ESI will process it and arrange for the collection of the appliances.
3. Within one business day of receipt of the form, ESI will contact members to:
   - Verify the collected information.
   - Inquire whether the member wishes to dispose of other ineligible appliances not covered by the program and if so, establish payment terms.
   - Establish a collection date to be within three (3) weeks of initial contact.
4. If members will be unavailable at the time of collection, ESI mails yellow Pull the Plug stickers to be placed on the eligible appliances to be collected. ESI provides stickers or another identification method to separately identify any ineligible appliances that members and ESI have agreed to include in the collection.
5. On the Friday prior to the scheduled collection date, ESI contacts members to confirm the date and gives an estimated time of arrival for collection.
6. On the collection date, ESI contacts members 1 to 2 hours prior to the scheduled arrival to verify a more precise collection time.
7. An incentive check is delivered to members by ESI in an envelope on the day of collection. If members are not on site during the collection time, the member and ESI will arrange for an alternative delivery method.
8. ESI will send notification to the ECI REC one day after collection to verify member's name, the type, number, and size of eligible appliances collected, and other information reasonably requested.

These yellow Pull the Plug stickers are placed on the appliances to be collected.

Members may take advantage of these incentives and receive payment on up to a maximum of three eligible appliances per address, per year. The types of operating appliances that qualify are: refrigerators, $35 each; freezers, $25 each; and window air conditioners, $25 each.

A flat $20 penalty fee will be assessed for travel by ESI to any scheduled collection address where none of the eligible, agreed upon appliances are available.

Pull the Plug and Residential Weatherization

New Residential Weatherization Program Offers Rebates

Members who have purchased products or received services on or after April 1, 2010, for energy-efficient weatherization improvements may qualify for rebates of up to $2,200*. Rebate amounts vary by installation type and by type of primary heating and cooling system (see Table 1). Maximum rebates are the maximum amounts allowed per home under this program for as long this program is offered.

You may qualify if your home meets these key criteria:

- Residential homes built before 1986 are eligible.
- Only residential upgrades (retrofitting existing homes) qualify, not new additions.
- The total project cost must be $150 or more.
- The residential home must have electric heat and/or central air conditioning.
- Homes with natural gas heating are not eligible.

To ensure projects qualify for these rebates, members should acquire and read the rebate forms that can be found at www.ecirec.coop, as additional criteria do apply. When submitting the forms, invoices must be provided.

The individual rebate forms will also have the specifications for your insulation, infiltration control, and duct insulation/sealing projects (see Table 2). More than one type of installation is eligible, as long as the criteria are met (see Table 3).

You will also find specific recommendations on the forms, for example: professional installation is recommended for most projects; and self-installers should acquire the necessary expertise to guarantee a quality installation and ensure that the resulting work does not compromise the safety and integrity of the home.

If you choose to use a contractor, contractor invoices must be itemized with total costs. Be sure to review all requirements on the rebate forms with your contractor prior to the installation.

**Only members using all-electric heat could qualify for maximum rebates.*

Table 1. REBATES

Type of Installation	Primary Heating/Cooling	
	Electric Heat	Central AC Only
Attic/Ceiling Insulation	60% up to $600 Max.	15% up to $150 Max.
Wall Insulation	60% up to $600 Max.	15% up to $150 Max.
Foundation Insulation	60% up to $600 Max.	NA
Infiltration Control	60% up to $600 Max.	NA
Duct Insulation/Sealing	60% up to $600 Max.	NA
TOTAL	$2200 Maximum	$300 Maximum

Table 2. REQUIRED INSULATION LEVELS

Type of Installation	Pre-Existing Maximum	Post-Install Minimum
Attic Insulation	R-20	R-38
Wall Insulation	R-13	R-13,
Foundation Insulation	R-8	R-5 Add R-5 Min.
Duct Insulation/Sealing	R-3	R-8

Table 3. TYPICAL R-VALUES FOR INSULATION

Insulation Type	R-value / inch (OLD)	R-value / inch (NEW)
Flexible Batts		
Fiberglass	2.6	3.2
Rockwool	3.1	3.6
Loose-Fill		
Cellulose	3.2	3.5
Fiberglass	2.0	2.4
Rockwool	2.4	2.9
Perlite	2.3	2.7
Vermiculite	2.0	2.4
Rigid Foam Boards		
Polystyrene, molded (beaded)		4.0
Polystyrene, extruded (smooth)		5.0
Polyurethane		6.0
Polyisocyanurate		8.0
Spray Foam Insulation		
Urethane		6.0
Foam Roofing		8.0

From Home Energy Saver website (sponsored by ENERGY STAR)

ENERGY STAR® TIP

How do I know if I have enough insulation in my attic?

A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your attic. If your insulation is level with or below the joists, you probably need to add more insulation (but remember to seal the air leaks before you insulate). If you can't see the joists because the insulation is above them, then you probably have enough and adding more will likely not be cost-effective. Even if you have plenty of insulation, it may not be performing well due to cold air leaking through the insulation into the house, so make sure to look for signs of air leaks and seal them up as you find them. Visit ENERGY STAR® Home Sealing for more information.

Cracks Discovered in ENERGY STAR® Appliance Rating System

A United States Government Accountability Office investigation into the ENERGY STAR® appliance rating system has revealed that the program is vulnerable to fraud. The Accountability Office obtained Energy Star certification for 15 bogus products, including a gas-powered alarm clock. Two bogus products were rejected by the program and three did not receive a response.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy published a response on the ENERGY STAR Web site defending the program's integrity. "In fact, a review last year found that 98 percent of the products tested met or exceeded the ENERGY STAR requirements, and last year alone, Americans with the help of ENERGY STAR saved $17 billion on their energy bills," the response said.

"Member-consumers of Iowa's RECs will be better served if they are aware of this criticism of the program," said Regi Goodale, director of regulatory affairs for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), in an email to cooperatives. Regi added, however, that the IAEC is in no way trying to discredit the ENERGY STAR effort.

"There appear to be some products that have some issues," Regi said. "For consumers, this underscores the importance of doing your homework before making any purchases. Asking a lot of questions and gathering a lot of information before making any major purchase generally leads to better decision making."

The EPA's and Department of Energy's statement said appropriate action has been taken to address issues the government's investigation revealed, including an enhanced testing program. Enforcement actions have already been taken against companies that have violated the rules.

ECI REC Inspects Connections on German Turbine

Member Greg German from Masonville recently had a 65-kW wind turbine installed. ECI's operations personnel visited the site to go over Greg's cogeneration contract and perform an interconnection safety inspection.

"It is important for our linemen to know the location of the shut-offs for all cogeneration equipment interconnected to ECI REC's distribution systems," said Gary Marlow, operations supervisor. "If linemen need to perform services where these wind turbines are interconnected, this equipment should be shut down. Otherwise, the linemen are put at risk of an electrical back-feed these systems could produce."

For more turbine information, log onto www.ecirec.coop, or call ECI REC at 877-850-4343.

Member Sees Results from 2008 Air-Source Heat Pump Installation

"The heat pump has performed as predicted," Katherine said. "It's saved me over $2,200 per season in heating costs!"

Katherine Wellner of rural Dunkerton keeps meticulous records. She noticed the cost of heating fuel had been increasing in the past few years, so she called her heating contractor, Primrose Heating and Air Conditioning of Jesup, for regular maintenance on her aging oil furnace.

"Primrose suggested I could save a lot of money on heating costs if I replaced my furnace with a very efficient air-source heat pump," Katherine said. "They've been doing my heating service work for many years, and I trusted their judgment."

In October of 2008, Primrose installed an air-source heat pump; her choice was one of the most efficient on the market at the time. "The heat pump has performed as predicted," Katherine said. "It's saved me over $2,200 per season in heating costs!"

The pump is heating her 1,680-square-foot, 65-year-old home for approximately **35% of the cost** of heating with the old oil furnace. The 18-SEER, 9.0 HSPF heat pump qualified for a $550 rebate from ECI REC.

What You Should Know About Wind Turbines and Cogeneration

The successful operation of wind turbines or other cogeneration systems starts with open and frequent communication with your electric service provider. "Ideally, members should contact ECI REC prior to purchasing a cogeneration system," said Steve Marlow, manager of operations and engineering.

ECI REC can help members understand the legal requirements and building codes that need to be addressed. Also, a contract must be agreed upon and signed before members can use the Cooperative's equipment.

It is also important that members build a relationship with the wind turbine representative who wants to sell you his or her product. A good company will thoroughly review performance, components, safety, service, installation and maintenance, and documentation with you. Some good questions to start with are:

1. How long has the manufacturer been producing small wind turbines, and what is this model's track record for performance and longevity?
2. Can you get the names and contact information of other people who have purchased this unit?
3. Has the turbine's over-speed protection been demonstrated to be effective, and is there sufficient lightning protection?
4. What noise level (in decibels) does the unit generate at what distances?
5. Do you need to buy the tower, electronics, and other components separately or are they included in the price?
6. Does the warranty cover a reasonable period of time? Does the warranty cover the cost of parts and labor? Does it include the cost of a crane if it is needed?
7. Will the manufacturer install the turbine or provide installation assistance? If you need to hire someone to install it, how much will that cost?
8. What is the routine maintenance schedule for the unit you are considering purchasing? How often do major components fail?
9. Can you browse the user manual before purchasing? How easy is it to understand?

Here are some other helpful tips to know about wind turbines installation:

- In order to make sure installation of a wind turbine will be worthwhile, erect an anemometer to measure the wind speed. Or, log on to the Iowa Energy Center at www.energy.iastate.edu. Click on *Renewable Energy*, then *Wind*, and *Wind Assessment and Calculator*. By entering accurate information, you can find out average wind speed, air density, average wind power density, and estimated output for each month of the year.
- To optimize performance, the bottom tips of the turbine blade should pass at least three times above the top of any physical barriers within 300 to 500 feet of the wind turbine tower.
- Set the turbine back from all buildings, electrical lines, roads, and property lines, at least the height of the tallest point on the turbine.

On-Site at Burco Farm's 100-kW Turbine

Lineman Brian Reidy familiarizes himself with the turn-off point outside the turbine.

Above: Dave Becker gives readings from the 8-track meter to John Tegler. Below: A 100-foot ladder in the tower is used to access the mechanics of the turbine.

Brian inspects the control panels and the conduit to the other controls inside the 100-foot tower base.

D&A Fabrications Gets a Transformer Upgrade

New electrical equipment was recently installed to meet new power distribution needs for one member business. ECI REC recently upgraded a transformer for D&A Fabrication of Urbana, a neighbor to ECI REC in the BECCA Industrial Park.

"Even in these challenging economic times, growth continues for D&A Fabrication," said Greg Pavelka, marketing and economic development director. "A new plasma-plated, punch machine needed to be integrated into its fabrication portfolio, and the 75 kVA pad-mount transformer needed upgraded to a 150 kVA transformer to accommodate the increased electrical load."

Ben Donnelly (operating boom) and Pat Hyland guide the transformer housing.

Doug Gericke and Dan Wacha, owners of D & A Fabrication, test the new machine.

Officials Close the Books on 2007 Ice Storm Rebuilding Projects

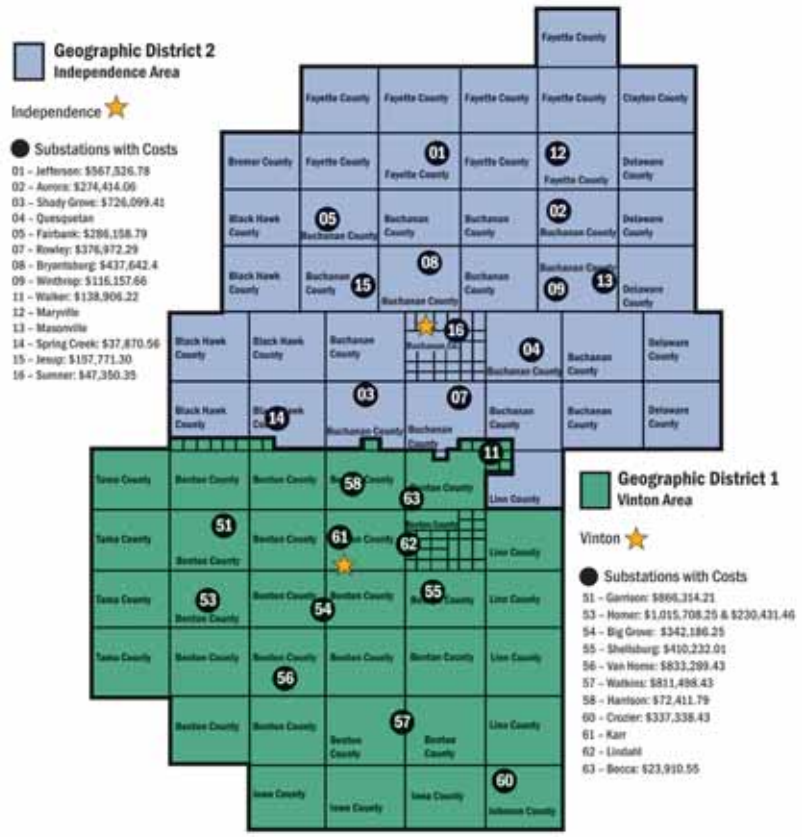
At the end of March, representatives from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management came to ECI REC to officially conclude the rebuilding projects related to the 2007 ice storm. Jim Berg, public assistant coordinator, and Randy Warren and Rex Dubois, project specialists, all from FEMA, completed this step.

Teresa Floyd, manager of finance and consumer services, noted, "The final closeout process allows FEMA to reimburse ECI REC for the balance owed on the federal share—75% of the project. Once those funds are paid, the state's share—10%—can be reimbursed."

Total cost to repair and rebuild more than 244 miles of damaged distribution lines was $9,356,330. FEMA and the State aid covered nearly $8 million, and ECI REC was responsible for the remaining $1.4 million.

After the costs were totaled, it was clear that ECI REC benefited from the partnership with the efficient team from Highline Construction of Paynesville, Minnesota. "Preconstruction estimates for the 2007 ice storm rebuilding came in at $39,000 per mile," said Steve Marlow, manager of operations and engineering. "However, the final cost per mile was only about $32,700 per mile. This means ECI REC and its members saved $1.7 million.

"Highline Owner Rick Fredin's crews and ECI personnel were able to work together very efficiently and effectively," said Steve. "There were cost savings through efficient engineering, material purchases, and handling."



Tree Trimming by Maurer Progresses Across ECI REC Service Territory

Tree trimming is vitally important to reliable electric service. At the time of publication, Maurer Tree Service's four-person crew had completed tree trimming in about one-half of the designated area around the Fairbank Substation, and was moving to the southwest of the substation. We anticipate the completion of this section sometime in May. Then, Maurer Tree Service will be moving to the Karr Substation area near Vinton.

"We realize that tree trimming can be a sensitive issue," said said Steve Marlow, manager of operations and engineering. "We would like to thank our member-consumers for their continued cooperation in our efforts to cut back vegetation that may be encroaching on the distribution system, thus reducing reliability issues that may affect electrical service."

"In order to ensure we don't have to trim a tree a member has planted, we ask that our members adhere to some simple tree-planting guidelines," said Steve.

Planting Reminders

1. Consider mature height of trees.
2. Don't plant trees near underground utilities.
3. Keep areas around electric meters, transformers, and other equipment free of vegetation.
4. Call Iowa One Call 48 hours before digging.

Community Connected

Youth Tour Winners Announced

Two juniors from area high schools have been selected to represent ECI REC at the 2010 Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., in June.

Connor Roth (top left), daughter of Joe and Nancy Roth of the Luzerne area, is active in St, Michael's church youth group. At Belle Plaine High School, Connor enjoys track, band and music, the Pep Club, and has been named student of the month several times. She also participates in the annual service-learning day.

Nicole Thompson (bottom left) is active in volleyball, softball, show choir, and musicals and plays, and the Lutheran Youth Organization. She was named president of her class at Vinton/Shellsburg High School this year. Nicole is the daughter of Jeff and Julie Barns from the Palo area.

2010 Independence Home Show

John Tegler, member services technician, and Frank Weber, member services director, represented ECI REC at Independence's recent home show. The more than 320 attendees were able to take advantage of the resources at the ECI REC booth.

"Both ECI member-consumers and visitors were full of questions about energy efficiency," said John. "Many were interested in geothermal systems, model home qualifications, and our new 2010 energy-efficiency programs."

During the event, ECI REC awarded a meter to Cindy Walton of Independence. Denny Bowers, also of Independence, won a heated mug.. Thirty exhibitors had a presence at this year's show.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Summer is a time to be outside! To help members enjoy a safe summer full of outdoor fun, ECI REC is providing these outdoor electrical safety tips courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Log on to www.electrical-safety.org to learn more.

Check extension cords used outdoors to make sure they are marked "Suitable for use with outdoor appliances." Store them indoors when not in use.

Do not use a power tool or electrical appliance after it has tripped a GFCI. Take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.

Never handle electrical items, plugs, or outlets when wet. If an electrical appliance falls into a pool or puddle, do not reach for it. Instead, turn off the power to that circuit at the electrical panel before retrieving the appliance.

Outdoor extension cords come in 25- to 150-foot lengths. Buy only the length you need. Cords longer than 100 feet can lose power suddenly, creating a hazard when using power tools.

Outdoor Electrical Safety Checklist:

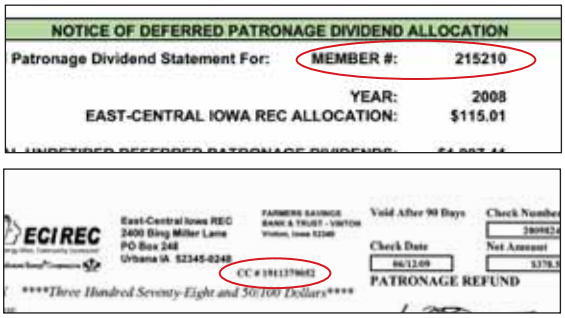
- When using power tools, do you use heavy-duty extension cords that have a protective layer of insulation?
- Does each exterior outlet have its own waterproof cover?
- Are outside receptacles equipped with GFCIs?
- Are all metal objects (ladders, swing-sets, etc.) at least 10 feet away from power lines?
- Are you using the shortest extension cord possible?
- Do you fully unwind power cords and extension cords before using?
- Do you store outdoor electrical equipment indoors?
- If you use extension cords outdoors, are they the heavy-duty, round-type of cord?
- Do you inspect the electrical cords of power tools for wear each time you use them?
- If a power tool or other electrical appliance has ever tripped a GFCI, do you take it in for inspection?
- Does every piece of electrical equipment bear the mark of a recognized testing laboratory?
- Do you unplug outdoor electrical equipment whenever it is not in use?
- Do you use power tools outdoors only on dry days (with the exception of snow blowers)?

ID Numbers Changed to Protect Members' Identities

To protect our members' privacy and personal information, and to comply with the Red Flag rules, ECI REC is moving forward with reassigning some member numbers. Any member number that contained a member's social security number has been assigned a new master member number, also called a customer number.

All related history and member information associated with outdated numbers has been transferred to the new number. Members with multiple accounts have only one new member number that is associated with all accounts.

The identity theft, or Red Flag, rules are federal business guidelines that ECI REC and other businesses are required by law to enact to protect the privacy and personal identification information.


NOTICE OF DEFERRED PATRONAGE DIVIDEND ALLOCATION

Patronage Dividend Statement For: MEMBER #: 215210

YEAR: 2008

EAST-CENTRAL IOWA REC ALLOCATION: $115.01

ECI REC

East-Central Iowa REC
2400 Bing Miller Lane
PO Box 248
Urbana IA 52345-0248

Void After 90 Days

Check Number

Check Date 06/12/09

Net Amount

CC # 1911379602

****Three Hundred Seventy-Eight and 50/100 Dollars****

PATRONAGE REFUND

ECI REC members will notice a new identification number on their allocation notices (top) and on their general retirement checks (bottom).

GABBY'S GROUND RULES
Hey folks, CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
IOWA ONE CALL
If you plan to landscape or do any home improvements that require digging, please follow Gabby's Ground Rules. Call Iowa One Call at least 48 hours in advance to have your underground utilities marked. Then avoid digging within 18" on either side of flags or paint markings. Know what's below – Call Iowa One Call. It's fast. It's free. It's the Law.
800-292-8989
www.iowaonecall.com
811
A public service announcement of Iowa One Call.

East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative Honored for Economic Development and Community Leadership

Strengthening communities and fostering economic opportunities through local partnerships are priorities for Iowa's rural electric cooperatives. Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) annually recognizes its utility sponsors for outstanding commitment, contribution, and participation in business development projects and local community initiatives.

East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative was recognized by the development group for its commitment to community and cooperation among cooperatives, two main principles upheld by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and Touchstone Energy. East-Central Iowa REC has partnered with Iowa Area Development Group on a number of development projects benefiting its utility territory.

On the special occasion of Central Iowa Power Cooperative's annual meeting, Rand Fisher, president of Iowa Area Development Group, acknowledged the Cooperative's commitment to community and economic development leadership. "East-Central Iowa REC has provided generous support of economic development initiatives in both business and community development endeavors throughout their service territory and region," said Rand.

IADG has worked with its utility sponsors on over 1,600 successful business and community development projects. This activity represents capital investment of more than $5.6 billion and 38,000 jobs for Iowa.

Left to right: Harry Ruth, East-Central Iowa REC CEO, and Steve Rau, board president, accept an economic development award from Rand Fisher, president of the Iowa Area Development Group.

Cooperative Releases 2009 Financial Report for Member Review

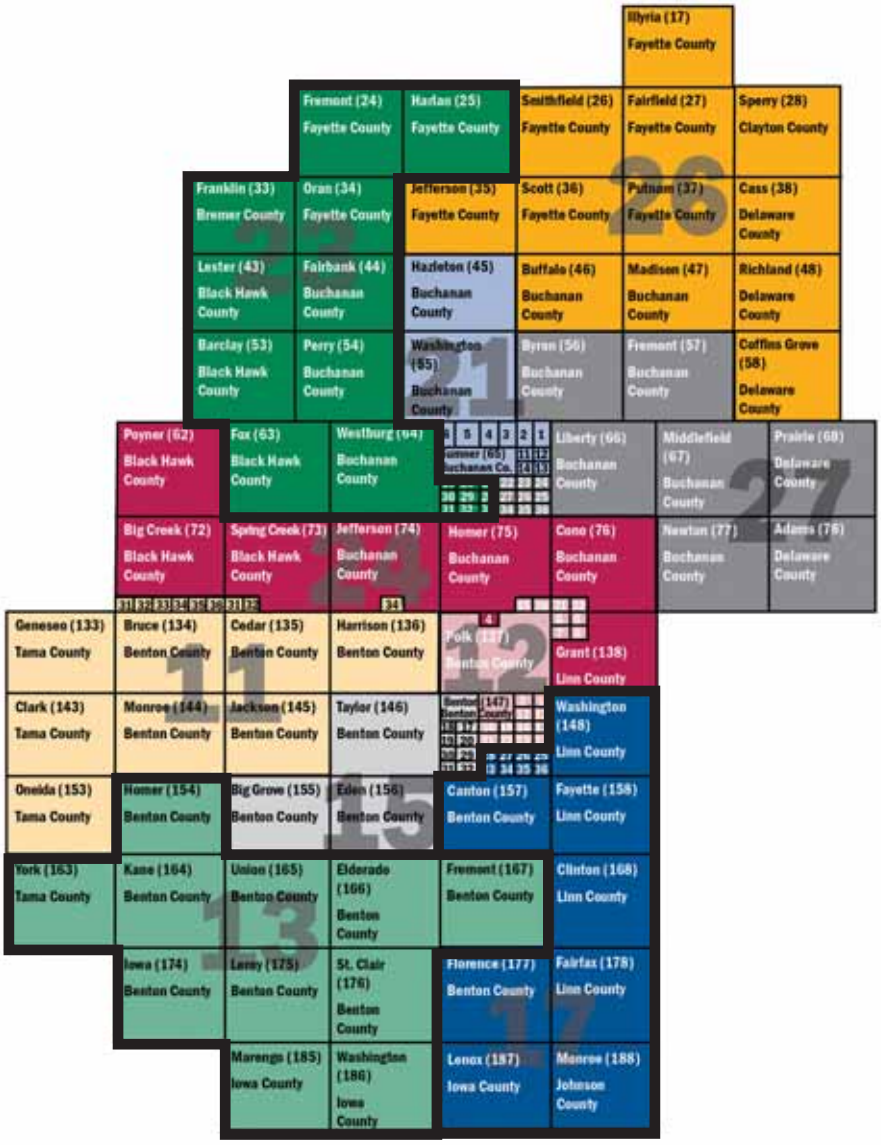
2009 Statement of Revenue and Expense

Revenue	
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	**$20,458,709**
Expense	
Purchased Power	$12,893,378
Distribution Expenses – Operations	$1,705,617
Distribution Expenses – Maintenance	$433,368
Consumer Accounts Expense	$485,854
Customer Service and Information Expense	$384,957
Administrative and General Expense	$1,340,358
Depreciation	$1,298,153
Taxes – Property and Other	$20,450
Interest on Long Term Debt	$1,007,540
Other Deductions and Interest Expense	$42,880
Total Expense	**$19,612,555**
Operating Margins	$846,154
Non-Operating Margins	$18,710
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	$206,129
Other Capital Credits	$200,917
Operating and Non-Operating Margins	**$1,271,910**

2008 Statement of Revenue and Expense

Revenue	
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	**$18,964,751**
Expense	
Purchased Power	$12,145,920
Distribution Expenses – Operations	$1,570,630
Distribution Expenses – Maintenance	$646,413
Consumer Accounts Expense	$461,369
Customer Service and Information Expense	$343,245
Administrative and General Expense	$1,134,474
Depreciation	$1,278,455
Taxes – Property and Other	$18,916
Interest on Long Term Debt	$968,471
Other Deductions and Interest Expense	$20,289
Total Expense	**$18,588,182**
Operating Margins	$376,569
Non-Operating Margins	$82,875
Generation and Transmission Capital Credits	$372,870
Other Capital Credits	$117,936
Operating and Non-Operating Margins	**$950,249**

East-Central Iowa REC Annual Member Meeting Scheduled for June 17


Illyria (17) Fayette County
Fremont (24) Fayette County
Harlan (25) Fayette County
Smithfield (26) Fayette County
Fairfield (27) Fayette County
Sperry (28) Clayton County
Franklin (33) Bremer County
Oran (34) Fayette County
Jefferson (35) Fayette County
Scott (36) Fayette County
Putnam (37) Fayette County
Cass (38) Delaware County
Lester (43) Black Hawk County
Fairbank (44) Buchanan County
Hazleton (45) Buchanan County
Buffalo (46) Buchanan County
Madison (47) Buchanan County
Richland (48) Delaware County
Barclay (53) Black Hawk County
Perry (54) Buchanan County
Washington (55) Buchanan County
Byron (56) Buchanan County
Fremont (57) Buchanan County
Coffins Grove (58) Delaware County
Poyner (62) Black Hawk County
Fox (63) Black Hawk County
Westburg (64) Buchanan County
Liberty (66) Buchanan County
Middlefield (67) Buchanan County
Prairie (68) Delaware County
Big Creek (72) Black Hawk County
Spring Creek (73) Black Hawk County
Jefferson (74) Buchanan County
Homer (75) Buchanan County
Cono (76) Buchanan County
Newton (77) Buchanan County
Adams (78) Delaware County
Genesee (133) Tama County
Bruce (134) Benton County
Cedar (135) Benton County
Harrison (136) Benton County
Polk (137) Benton County
Grant (138) Linn County
Clark (143) Tama County
Monroe (144) Benton County
Jackson (145) Benton County
Taylor (146) Benton County
Benton (147) Benton County
Washington (148) Linn County
Oneida (153) Tama County
Homer (154) Benton County
Big Grove (155) Benton County
Eden (156) Benton County
Canton (157) Benton County
Fayette (158) Linn County
York (163) Tama County
Kane (164) Benton County
Union (165) Benton County
Eldorado (166) Benton County
Fremont (167) Benton County
Clinton (168) Linn County
Iowa (174) Benton County
Leroy (175) Benton County
St. Clair (176) Benton County
Florence (177) Benton County
Fairfax (178) Linn County
Marengo (185) Iowa County
Washington (186) Iowa County
Lenox (187) Iowa County
Monroe (188) Johnson County

Be sure to attend the 15th Annual Meeting of the Members to be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 17, at the Heartland Acres Event Center, Independence. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Registered attendees will receive a hand-cranked LED flashlight and paring knife for coming. There is a limit of one registration gift per membership.

"Members who are present have the chance to win many prizes, including one of two $100 energy bill credis," said Greg Pavelka, ECI marketing and economic development director.

In addition to the prizes and a good meal, ECI REC members should attend to vote to fill three positions on the cooperative's Board of Directors. Two will be elected in geographic district 1, the Benton County area, and one in geographic district 2, the Buchanan County area. An amendment question pertaining to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation will also be up for member vote.

Districts concerned are board district 13, where Allen Albers is running unopposed; board district 17, where Burt Byers is running unopposed; and board district 23, where Jim Alberts and John Beierschmitt are up for election.

Heartland Acres Event Center is located at 2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence just off U.S. Highway 20, Exit 252, North onto Iowa Ave and then West at the Homestead Restaurant onto Swan Lake Blvd.

Please Vote! East-Central Iowa REC is owned by you!

ECI REC's second guiding principle states that cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner. So, please join us at our Annual Meeting on June 17 to make your voice heard. If you cannot be present, please vote for your director choice(s) using the mail-in ballot that will be coming to you a few weeks prior to the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING MESSAGE PREVIEW

Reliability - Affordability - Advocacy

East-Central Iowa REC is owned by you, our member-consumers. Therefore, providing exceptional customer service is a very important part of how we serve you. We know that providing reliable, affordable electricity is the most important thing we do for our members.

Reliability Report

- Since the ice storm of 2007, your Cooperative has replaced 235 miles of old equipment with financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Iowa.
- Because 38% of our distribution system is more than 50 years old, we have also applied for an additional FEMA grant in the amount of $11.2 million to further improve the reliability of our lines.
- The owner of our transmission wires, ITC Midwest, is converting from a 34.5 kilovolt (KV) system to a more reliable and stronger 69 KV system. To handle this conversion, ECI REC will convert 14 substations at a cost of $3.5 million.
- New, automated switches will be installed that will allow the operations staff to remotely feed circuits of a non-functioning substation from an alternative substation. These 35 switches cost about $25,000 each, but will enable us to cut outage time from hours down to 15 to 30 minutes.
- Continuous maintenance tasks such as tree-trimming and line inspections will continue in 2010.

Affordability Update

- ECI REC and its members have little control over the cost of wholesale power or the costs of maintaining a reliable distribution system.
- To manage costs, ECI REC is focusing on operating as leanly and efficiently as possible. We are trimming staffing levels and providing our employees the technology needed to meet the needs of our members with the least amount of effort.
- Our members can help keep electricity costs down by using it more efficiently. Turn to the Message from the CEO on page 16 for a list of ideas.
- ECI REC has expanded its rebate programs for many energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, appliances, water heaters, and indoor air quality equipment.

Advocacy Information

- We are communicating with our elected officials about the role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of communities and families in our service territories.
- As it has been, ECI REC and will continue to, monitor the energy proposals elected officials in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., bring to table. One current example is the Environmental Protection Agency's plans to extend the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.
- Due in part to our members' efforts to send postcards of concern to Senators Grassley and Harkin, alternative approaches to the "cap and trade" legislation to control greenhouse gases are being explored.

2010 Nominating Committee

ECI REC and its board of directors would like to say thank you to those on the 2010 Nominating Committee.

Each board member appoints someone from their district to sit in on this committee, to help ensure interested members from districts with director positions open are placed on the ballot. The committee members also serve as the tellers and ballot counters at the ECI REC's Annual Meeting.

"Our Nominating Committee members play an important role in maintaining the democratic foundation of our Cooperative," said ECI REC CEO Harry Ruth. "Thank you for taking the time to serve your ECI REC and its members."

(Left to right) Front row: Howard Miller representing board district 21 and Chris Sackett representing board district 12; back row: John Liebold representing board district 23, Sean Dolan representing board district 27, John Lemert representing board district 24, John Heitman representing board district 15, Gerald Selken representing board district 13, Jerry Cole representing board district 26. Not pictured: Aaron Slaymaker representing board district 17, board district 11 not represented.

A Lifestyle Tip From ECI REC

ECI REC knows its members lead busy lives. With this new feature, our goal is to add a little more value to our members' lives. Sometimes, in this fast-paced world, a quick tip about a hot-button issue, a healthy lifestyle recommendation, or financial advice from a trusted resource can make a difference.

Recycle Your Gadgets With Gazelle

This company, found at www.gazelle.com, is a quick and green way to sell and recycle electronics. Gazelle buys cell phones, mp3 players, laptops, or other gadgets for a fair price based on your evaluation of their condition. Even if your gadget is determined to have no value, it can still be sent in for recycling.

Gazelle pays for shipping and sends the box. Users are notified via e-mail once items have been received and inspected, and again when payment has been sent. The whole process takes about a week once the item is received.

Personal data is deleted from items that are still in working condition and are sold through retail and wholesale outlets. Gazelle even allows you to host a fundraising drive for a good cause.

According to its web site, the company is "creating a revolution in consumption, inviting everyone to think differently about the products we buy, own, sell, and dispose of. Gazelle's vision for the future is that every consumer electronic is considered for reCommerce and that none ends up in a landfill."

Try Gazelle—you'll earn cash and help save the environment!

CEO Message *from page 16*

Do you have an old refrigerator or freezer still in use? If it is eligible, we will pay you to let us recycle it for you through our Pull the Plug program.

Pay your bill on-line or sign up for automatic payment. You can pay your bill on-line by going to our Web site, www.ecirec.coop. Scroll down to Member Information, and click on Pay My Bill On-line. The site is secure. First-time users need to setup a username and password. If you need help, call our Urbana office at 319.443.4343 or 877.850.4343.

Or, sign up to make your payment automatically. On the first day of each month, we withdraw the amount of your bill from your checking account or charge it to your credit card. Call our Urbana office to request the proper form.

If you cannot pay your bill on time, please call us to make arrangements. The measures we must take to follow up with members whose accounts are delinquent cost ECI REC money. If you cannot pay your entire electric bill, call us! We are generally able to work with you to find a more comfortable payment arrangement.

If you lose power, eliminate the possibility of trouble on your side of the meter before calling ECI REC. Sometimes the problem is not with our distribution lines. Be sure your neighbors have also lost power before you call us. It costs time and money to send someone to your home after hours.

Call us if you see a problem with our equipment. Fixing equipment wear-and-tear before it causes an outage saves money. If you notice a broken cross arm on a poles or a wire that is disconnected from its insulator, call our Urbana office and report it.

Look up before you plant. Trees should not be planted closer than 15 feet to electric poles and wires. Conscientious planting by members will shorten the job of the contracted service ECI REC hires each year to trim trees and protect our lines.

Call Iowa One Call before you dig. Electrical lines, telephone lines, natural gas or propane supply lines, or water and sewer lines can all be buried in your yard. Damaging these when digging could be costly or dangerous. Call 800.292.8989 at least 48 hours before any digging begins on your property, and ECI REC and other utilities will mark the underground pipes or lines you **do not** own.

Classifieds Free to ECI REC Members Only

FOR SALE: Rear-mount, 3-point, tractor snow blower. Approximately 6' wide; asking $450 OBO. Ph: 319-560-2739

FOR SALE: 2000 F-550 Power Stroke 7.3 liter diesel, 167,000 miles, Arm-Lift bucket working height about 35', inverter and a DC pump, company owned and well maintained, runs and drives well. Ph: 319-981-1274

FOR SALE: Iron wheels; antique cabinet Singer sewing machine; manual for Oliver '77 and Oliver '88 tractor. Ph: 319-436-2846

FOR SALE: Cabin on the Wapsi, 3 BR, 2 BA with outbuildings. West of Independence. Nice lot, must see. 1675 Golf Course Blvd., Cabin #62. Asking $53K. Ph: 319-233-7336 before 5 p.m. or 319-827-2175

FOR SALE: Sprayer for J-D gator 65 gal. tank, 20-ft. boom. Ph: 319-443-4125

FOR SALE: Two P205-75R14 tires, $40 each; 4 P225-75R15 tires, $65 each; good tread, traded vehicles and not same size tire. Ph: 319-634-3892 or 515-236-0014

FOR SALE: Ajay fun and fitness stationary exercise bicycle, USA made, $75 OBO. Ph: 319-934-3840

FOR SALE: JD8310 tractor, 1,900 hrs; MFWD front and rear weights. Frt feuders. Del cab. Ph: 563-419-5812

FOR SALE: 1997 Ford Ranger, good condition 4-wheel drive, 140,500 miles, Grandma's truck. Ph: 319-464-2478

FOR SALE: Berkline Easy Lift Chair, battery operated, microfibers cover brown, chaise design, control wand, used one month, 43"h x 39"w x 42.5"d, $400 OBO. Ph: 319-443-8960 or 319-443-2536

FOR SALE: 8 gallons premium Wood Care by Cabot, translucent oil stain for decks, siding, fences and trim, retail $30.97 per gallon #3004. Heartwood $170.00; new wrought iron rustic 6 light chandelier. World Imports 5446-99 Saxon, $99.00; Nuvo Lighting 60-1781. 3 new light chandelier, Sudbury Bronze, satin white glass, $99.00; 2 tons "Highland Brown" Wisconsin stone suitable for fireplace or wall $150. Ph: 319-521-1607

Wanted: Someone to shear a few sheep. Ph. 319-436-2846

Wanted: Used wood burning stove for 20x40 metal shed. Ph: 319-939-7466.

Wanted: Male rabbit for breeding. Ph: 319-231-4280

I'M TIGHT WITH
MY MONEY.
AIRTIGHT.
I'm saving $212 a year by sealing a few cracks.
What can you do? Find out how the little changes
add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

Ads for the July/August Heartland Link must be received by June 1, 2010.

East-Central Iowa REC will publish non-commercial advertisements as a service to our members. All ads are free. They may be submitted by any member or employee of East-Central Iowa REC. Ads should contain a phone number, name (if desired), a brief description of items with price if applicable. Each ad is limited to maximum of 50 words. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. ***No ads will be taken over the telephone—please mail or bring your ad to the office.***

Member Challenge

Take the Member Challenge

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Sixteen names will be drawn from all the correct entries.

1. ENERGY WISE: The Pull the Plug program will pay as much as ___, depending on the appliance, to members who sign up for this easy way of recycling of inefficient, working appliances.

2. SAFETY: _____ is National Electrical Safety Month.

3. COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE: Be sure to attend the 15th Annual Meeting of the Members to be held at 11:00 a.m., _____, at the Heartland Acres Event Center.

Find the answers to the questions, print the word(s) at the top of the next page, cut it out, and send it to: ECI REC, PO Box 248, Urbana, IA 52345. You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue must be received by June 1.

Congrats to the March/April Winners

Wanda Noe	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
David and Deborah Ellingrod	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
Russell Smith	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
David and Brenda Inman	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
David Albertsen	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
Steve Runyan	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
June Schrader	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
Charles Pettit	$10 Credit on Electric Bill
Mark Lagrange	REC Rain Gauge
Erik and Leslie Moen	REC Thermometer
Leonard Davis	REC Thermometer
George Reiss	Pocket Screwdriver Set
Nancy McGowan	Pocket Screwdriver Set
Harry Fox	REC Calculator
Richard Wilmot	REC Calculator

heartland LINK
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Line Department & Member Services Department:
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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We're on the web!
WWW.ECIREC.COOP

ECI REC
Energy Wise, Community Connected

See page 15 for the Member Challenge questions.
Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Please note: NO ANSWERS will be taken over the phone.

Clip and mail

Message From the CEO

CEO
Harry Ruth

Members Can Help ECI REC Keep Costs Down *(and its rates stable!)*

Members are taking an interest in how they can help control costs for ECI REC. As our Cooperative's CEO, I am excited that our members recognize the impact each individual's actions have on our energy consumption. I am happy to provide the following strategies for helping ECI REC control costs.

Stay off the peak. Electricity demand peaks from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays. It's tough to ask members to cut back during this time—you're home from work, starting dinner, watching television, and doing laundry. However, 40% to 50% of our wholesale power bill is not based on kWh charges. At the maximum, ECI REC pays $15.22 per kilowatt (KW) for the power we draw during peak hours. Delay using electricity during 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. can save us a great deal of money.

Educate yourself with a home energy audit. ECI REC offers professional home energy audits through partners, but you can also conduct your own audit for free using some trusted resources.

- Go to www.useelectric.com/homeaudit.xls to download a spreadsheet to start your home energy audit and evaluate how much each of your electric appliances uses each month. Other sections of this site contain useful information on using electricity efficiently.
- A more sophisticated energy audit is available from our partner, Touchstone Energy, at https://touchstoneenergy.cooperative.com/public/programs/energyefficiency/lblfiles/launch.htm.

continued on page 14